

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN EA-03

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DRAFTED BY:EA:RA:WLGALLAGHER

APPROVED BY:EA:RA:RJMARTEN

EA:PHL:ANN SWIFT (SUBS)

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R 252305Z APR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

S E C R E T STATE 096724

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM MANILA DATED APRIL 24, 1975 SENT SECSTATE WAS
HDC

INFO CINCPAC, CINCPACREPPHIL IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

S E C R E T MANILA 5250

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RP

SUBJECT: GOP CONCERN OVER NVN INCURSION INTO SPRATLEY AREA

1. EMBASSY RECEIVED "SECRET" NOTE APR 22 FROM DFA ADVISING U.S. "AS AN ALLY UNDER THE SOUTHEAST ASIA TREATY ORGANIZATION" OF THE NVN ACTION AGAINST THE SVN ON PUGAD (SOUTHWEST CAY).

2. NOTE STATES QUOTE: THAT TROOPS OF THE PHILIPPINES IN KALAYAAN PARTICULARLY IN PAROLA (NORTHEAST CAY) HAVE BEEN ON ALERT STATUS SINCE APRIL 14, 1975 WHEN NORTH VIETNAMESE FORCES LAUNCHED AN AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT AGAINST SOUTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS AT PUGAD ISLAND. PAROLA ISLAND WHICH IS OCCUPIED BY TROOPS OF THE PHILIPPINES IS APPROXIMATELY 1.6 MILES NORTH OF PUGAD. ON APRIL 19, 1975, ONE SIGNIFIVA

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T INCIDENT OCCURRED WHEN ONE SOUTHVIETNAMESE

SOLDIER AT PUGAD DEFECTED TO PHILIPPINE TROOPS IN PAROLA.
END QUOTE.

3. NOTE APPENDS ANNEX OF "SIGNIFICANT OBSERVATIONS" WHICH
DETAILS ACTIVITIES SURROUNDING NVN INCURSION, DEFEAT OF
SVN TROOPS ON PUGAD WHO ALLEGEDLY TAKEN TO DANANG, AND
SUBSEQUENT BUILD UP OF NVN FORTIFICATIONS ON SIDE OF PUGAD
FACING PAROLA WHICH IS OCCUPIED BY GOP. ANNEX ENDS WITH
STATEMENT THAT THE ONE SOUTH VIETNAMESE WHO ESCAPED, NYUGEN HUNG,
SAID HE HAD OVERHEARD THAT NVN "WILL ATTACK PAROLA 21 APRIL
AS SOON AS THEIR SHIPS ARRIVE FROM THE MAINLAND." NOTE AND
A
NEX BEING POUCHED.

4. COMMENT: GOP HAS BROUGHT NVN ACTION TO OUR ATTENTION
IN SEVERAL DIFFERENT WAYS THIS WEEK. BRIG. GENERAL PAZ
ASKED VISITING MG AARON, ACSI, DA, WHAT U.S. WOULD DO IF
NGN ATTACKED GOP "FORCES," EXPRESSING UNDERSTANDING AT
AARON'S NONCOMMITTAL REPLY BY SAYING MATTER WAS POLITICAL.
DEFENSE SECRETARY ENRILE WENT INTO MATTER IN SOME DETAIL
WITH VISITOR COUNTRY DIRECTOR FLECK BUT DID NOT ASK HOW
U.S. WOULD RESPOND. DFA NOTE, REFERRINGSOMEWHAT UNUSUALLY
TO U.S. AS SEATO ALLY, SKIRTS QUESTION TO SOME EXTENT BY
"INFORMING" US BUT NEVERTHELESS PUTTING ISSUE IN CONTEXT OF
COLLECTIVE SECURITY TREATY. ALL APPROACHES HIGHLIGHT GRAVE
CONCERN WITH WHICH GOP VIEWS NVN ACTION AND ITS POTENTIAL
THREAT TO GOP FORCES ON AND CLAIM TO SPRATLEY ISLANDS.
THEY ALSO HIGHLIGHT FACT THAT WE HAVE STILL TO RESOLVE
WHAT U.S. POLICY SHOULD BE TOWARDS PROBLEM IN VIEW ARTICLE
V OF MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY.
SULLIVAN UNQUOTE KISSINGER

SECRET

NNN

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